

Remarks

The abstract has been redrafted in a form believed to use proper language and be in a proper format for an abstract of the disclosure.

Figure 1 on sheet 1/2 of the drawings has been amended to replace "N-ISDN" in the roundel labeled with numeral 12 by "LAN" thereby ensuring that figure 12 corresponds to the application disclosure.

35 U.S.C. §112

It is believed that the amendment of the claims as referred to below fully addresses the Examiner's objection that some of the language of the claims is indefinite.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Of claim 1 to 9 pending in the application, claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 are amended and claim 6 is cancelled not only by way of more clearly and fully defining the present invention so as to distinguish it from the references of record, but to also account for other issues identified by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 7 as being anticipated by Templeton et al (US5692126). Templeton discloses among other things a pair of frame relay interface units 62, 68 which do not comprise a distributed gateway nor operate in the manner of the distributed gateway as now defined in the amended independent claims of the present invention. Frame relay does not utilise association tags for virtual channels as now claimed and thus does not provide the advantages conferred by doing so.

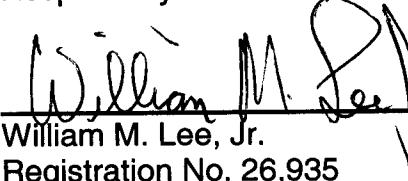
Claims 1, 2 and 7 are therefore not anticipated by the disclosure of Templeton.

Furthermore, there is nothing in the disclosure of Baldwin et al (US5633868) that would motivate a skilled person to modify the frame relay system of Templeton to arrive at the arrangement of the present invention as now claimed.

The claims are therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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